

## **White House Designates Minneapolis “Promise Zone” Which Includes Upper Harbor Terminal Site**

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On April 28, 2015, President Obama announced that a large portion of north Minneapolis is one of eight places nationwide selected for this year’s federal Promise Zone designations. The designated Promise Zone boundary includes the Upper Harbor Terminal site.

The Minneapolis Promise Zone plan addresses the persistent unemployment, crime, housing blight and poor educational outcomes in the Promise Zone area. The City and a range of community partners worked together to submit the application, developing a plan that focuses on housing stability, educational opportunities and training, economic development and jobs, and safe and healthy neighborhoods.

The move will prioritize federal resources to the area by allowing participating federal agencies to award additional scoring points to Promise Zone applications seeking funding under some existing grant programs. Agencies also may create special programs (likely for technical assistance rather than capital implementation) for which Promise Zone communities will be eligible. Applications from the City and from a variety of partner governmental and nonprofit partners will be able to benefit from this enhanced priority. At this point, twelve federal agencies are participating, and more may be added in the future. (It should be noted that this designation does not come with any immediate funding, make a proposed project eligible for a grant for which it otherwise would not be eligible or assure that the additional priority will be enough to guarantee that a funding application will be awarded a requested grant)

City staff will be exploring if and when this designation can assist in the redevelopment of the Upper Harbor Terminal. Additional information on how partners can take advantage of the federal grant and technical assistance preference points will be distributed as it becomes available.

For more information: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/promisezone/>